

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

To address the Information Disclosure Statement matter noted in the Official Action, a copy of UK Patent 1406817 that was submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 8, 2003 is attached herewith for consideration by the Examiner.

To address the drawing objection noted in the Official Action, the previously recited feature of the "deflection cylinders" is canceled from the claims. Accordingly, the drawing objection is believed addressed and should be withdrawn.

The specification is amended to include section headings to address the specification objection noted in the Official Action.

As to the claims, the position set forth in the Official Action is that claims 1-12 were previously pending. Although applicants had submitted claims 1-14, and had requested an action on claims 1-14, nevertheless, in order to advance prosecution, claims 1-12 are canceled and replaced with new claims 13-23.

Cancelling claim 12 is believed to obviate the claim objection as to this claim.

As to the rejection of claims 2-6 and 8-12 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, new claims 13-23 have removed or amended the language that was indicated as indefinite. Accordingly, the new claims are believed to avoid the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 10 were rejected as unpatentable over WATABE et al. 6,035,667 in view of TANAE et al. 5,326,039.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested because the proposed combination of references does not disclose or suggest winding yarn onto a spool until a full package of yarn is obtained and relaxing tension on a supply of yarn to the spool when the full package is stopping rotation as recited in new claim 13.

New claim 13 provides that these steps are performed in a specific order. Accordingly, a full package of yarn is wound and then tension is relaxed on a supply of yarn to the spool when the full package is stopping rotation.

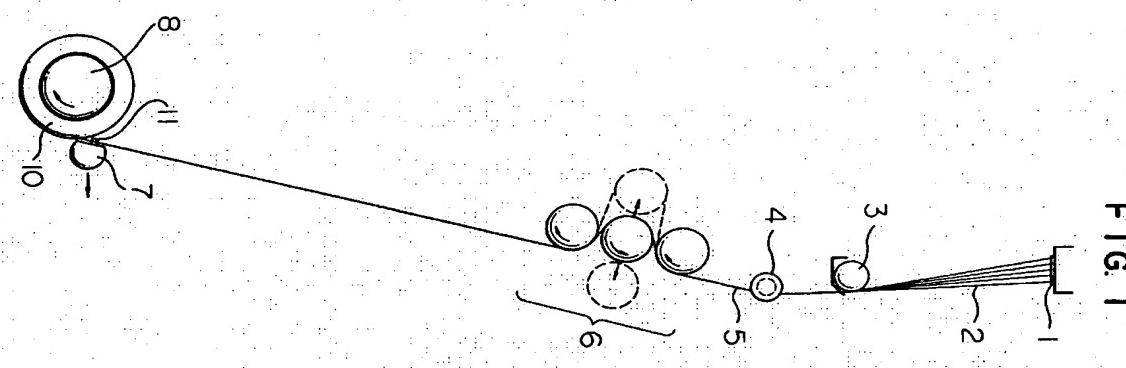
In contrast, the WATABE reference uses a tension relaxing device to reduce tension during the entire winding process. WATABE does not disclose winding yarn onto a spool to obtain a full package of yarn and then relaxing tension when the full package is stopping rotation. The TANAE reference is only cited with respect to the removal and supply of spools to the winding station. TANAE does not overcome the shortcomings set forth above with respect to the WATABE reference.

Accordingly, new claim 13 is believed to avoid the rejection over WATABE in view of TANAE.

New claims 14-21 depend from claim 13 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the proposed combination of references, at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

New independent claim 22 recites winding yarn onto a spool until a full package of yarn is obtained and relaxing tension on a supply of yarn to the spool only when a full package is stopping rotation.

As seen in claim 1 of WATABE in conjunction with Figure 1, reproduced below, it is seen that WATABE continuously removes tension by running a strand of yarn over a tension relaxing device 6 and then winds the strand to form a square-end package of yarn.



WATABE does not disclose relaxing tension on a supply of yarn to the spool only when a full package is stopping rotation. TANAE does not overcome the shortcomings of WATABE as to this feature.

New independent claim 23 recites the step of decelerating a spool having substantially a full package of yarn thereon while relaxing tension on a supply of yarn to the spool. The proposed combination of references does not disclose or suggest this feature.

Claims 3, 8, 9, 11 and 12 were rejected as unpatentable over WATABE et al. in view of TANAE et al. and further in view of D'AGNOLO 5,992,790. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

D'AGNOLO is only cited for the disclosure of relaxing tension of supply yarn by driving the package in a reverse direction of its winding rotation.

However, D'AGNOLO neither discloses that for which it is offered nor that which is recited in new claim 13.

The reversal of the reel in D'AGNOLO is after the yarn has been cut from a supply spool so as to retrieve a tail end 4 to make splicing easier. Since such reversal is after the take-up spool has been separated from the supply spool, there is no tension on the yarn. Thus, although D'AGNOLO may teach reversing direction of rotation, nevertheless, such rotation is not to relax the tension of supply yarn.

In addition, D'AGNOLO does not disclose relaxing tension when a full package is stopping rotation as recited in claim 13. Rather, as set forth above, the package is completely stopped and separated from the supply yarn before D'AGNOLO reverses this take-up spool to retrieve the tail end of the yarn.

As set forth above, WATABE in view of TANAE does not disclose what is recited in claim 13.

The features of claim 13 are missing from each of the references, are absent from the combination, and thus would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art. Thus, claim 13 and the claims depending therefrom are believed patentable over the proposed combination of references.

Claims 22 and 23 are also believed to define over the proposed combination of references for the reasons set forth above.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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